

Troy Record
**Two Grafton
Lakes Rated
Among Best**

"An In-Depth Biological Survey of Lakes in Rensselaer County," a study being conducted by a group of RPI students, has revealed that Forest and Taconic Lakes, both in Grafton, are two of the best lakes studied in terms of water quality.

In a preliminary report presented to the Rensselaer County Environmental Management Council, the two Grafton lakes were cited for low concentrations of bacteria, phosphates and nitrates, and low algae counts.

The study, headed by Donald Scavia of RPI's class of 1973, is being conducted with a \$19,200 grant from the National Science Foundation's Student-Originated Studies Program. Fifteen students are participating in the 11-week survey, which is expected to be completed by October.

Objectives of the study are two-fold. Representative sampling of the lakes is being conducted in an effort to aid the Rensselaer County Health Department in establishing a watershed management program. This type of program would correlate land use with the environmental quality of the water. A second objective is to establish a comparative analysis of the lakes under study.

A field team collected samples and performed various water analyses. A lab group of biological, chemical and geological teams performed more complex studies aimed at describing lake conditions.

A total of 20 selected lakes were sampled six times each throughout the summer, resulting in more than 10,000 tests. Preliminary results indicate eutrophication in many of the county's lakes. One of the poorest lakes studied was Snyder's Lake in the town of North Greenbush, where extremely high readings of phosphates and nitrates were recorded.